

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TUNIS 05957 261134Z

44

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07

INT-05 DHA-02 SAM-01 ACDA-07 FEAE-00 OES-06 /132 W

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R 261046Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3960

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUSN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 5957

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PORG TS

SUBJECT: GOT FOREIGN MINISTER VHATTY RETURNS TO TUNIS,
CRIOICIZES RADICALS, REJECTS OIL EMBARGO OF FRANCE

REF: TUNIS 5884

1. SUMMARY: AFTER RETURNING TO TUNIS FROM COLOMBO NAM SUMMIT,
GOT FOREIGN MINISTER CHATTY MADE PUBLIC STATEMENTS PRAISING
ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF MEETING BUT ALSO CRITICIZING SOME COUNTRIES
FOR TRYING TO MAKE THE NAM INTO A FIEFDOM OF A "SPECIFIC CAMP."
CHATTI ALSO REPUDIATED REPORTED NAM DECISION TO CALL FOR AN OIL
EMBARGO OF FRANCE IN RETALIATION FOR ITS SALE OF NUCLEAR PLANTS
TO SOUTH AFRICA. CHATTY'S REMARKS REFLECT GOT DISTASTE FOR
EFFORTS OF RADICAL STATES TO ALIGN NAM BEHIND SOVIET, CUBAN,
AND NORTH KOREAN FOREIGN POLICY GOALS WHILE REPUDIATION
OF EMBARGO DICISION INDICATES IMPORTANCE GOT ATTACHES
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PAGE 02 TUNIS 05957 261134Z

TO ITS RELATIONS WITH FRANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. GOT FOREIGN MINISTER HABIB CHATTY RETURNED TO TUNIS AUGUST 21 FROM COLOMBO NAM SUMMIT. IN STATEMENT TO PRESS AT AIRPORT, HE DISCUSSED ACHIEVEMENTS OF SUMMIT, CALLING IT NO LESS IMPORTANT THAN THE BELGRADE SUMMIT, RESULTING IN A "NEW FORMULA OF COOPERATION AMONG THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES". HE ALSO DECLARED THAT THE GREATER PART OF COUNTRIES REPRESENTED IN COLOMBO SHOWED THEMSELVES FIRMLY RESOLVED TO RESIST ATTEMPTS BY SOME COUNTRIES TO TRANSFORM NAM INTO A FIEFDOM OF A "SPECIFIC CAMP," WHICH REMAINED UNNAMED BUT OBVIOUSLY REFERRED TO RADICAL NON-ALIGNED STATES. THESE ATTEMPTS FAILED, CHATTY SAID, AND PARTICIPANTS LEFT THE CONFERENCE WITHOUT ENDORSING EIOHER THE NEW PHILOSOPHY THAT SOME SOUGHT TO IMPOSE, OR THE OLD PHILOSOPHY. IN THINLY VEILED CRITICISM, CHATTY STATD TUNISIA WOULD PREFER THAT NAM ADDRESS ITSELF TO ECONOMIC QUESTIONS, DEVELOPING COMMON FRONT IN ORDER TO WIN CONCESSIONS FROM INDUSTRIALIZED STATES BENEFITING ALL NAM MEMBERS. CHATTY ALSO SAID HE HAD TALKS WITH OTHER MAGHREB REPRESENTATIVES ON SUBJECTS RELATED TO THE CONFERENCE AND ON PROBLEMS "THAT REMAIN IN SUSPENSE" AMONG THESE COUNTRIES. HE DID NOT ELABORATE FURTHER ON THE NATURE OF THESE TALKS, NOR HIS INTERLOCUTORS.

Z3. LATER ON AUGUST 21 CHATTY MADE ADDITIONAL STATEMENT TO TUNIS AFRIQUE PRESS CONCERNING THE NAM SUMMIT DECISION TO IMPOSE AN OIL EMBARGO ON FRANCE. CHATTY ASSERTED THAT HE KNEW NOTHING OF AN EMBARGO PROPOSAL WHEN HE WAS IN COLOMBO AND THAT IT WAS BROUGHT UP AFTER MOST OF THE PARTICIPANTS HAD ALREADY DEPARTED. IN ANY CASE, HE SAID, TUNISIA CONSIDERED SUCH AN EMBARGO EXCESSIVE AND EVEN EXCLUSIVE SINCE FRANCE IS NOT THE ONLY COUNTRY INVOLVED. FRANCE HAS DONE MUCH FOR ARAB AND AFRICAN COUASES AND CHATTY ASSERTED THAT FRENCH POLCIESMUST BE JUDGED IN THIS WIDER CONTEXT. HE EXPRESSED OPINION THAT IF PROPOSAL HAD BEEN CONSIDERED BY THE FULL CONFERENCE, IT WOULDNOT HAVE HAD WIDE SUPPORT AND WOULD NOT HAVE PASSED. PRESS REPORTED NO REFERENCE BY CHATTY EITHER TO KOREA, PUERTO RICO, OR PANAMA.

4. CHATTY MET WITH PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA TO DISCUSS COLOMBO SUMMIT ON AUGUST 23. PRESS ACCOUNTS NEXT DAY OF CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TUNIS 05957 261134Z

THIS MEETING NOTED ONLY THAT BOURGUIBA IS SATISFIED WITH "DEVELOPMENT OF WIDER AREAS OF COOPERATION AMONG NON-ALIGNED STATES."

5. AUGUST 24 PRESS ALSO CARRIED A DENIAL ISSUED BY GOT FOREIGN MINISTRY OF STATEMENTS ATTRIBUTED TO CHATTY BY THE LIBYAN PAPER EL FEJR E JEDID. WITHOUT INDICATING WHAT THESE ALLEGED STATEMENTS WERE, MINISTRY ASSERTED THAT

CHATTY HAD NEVER GIVEN AN INTERVIEW TO THAT PAPER.

6. COMMENT: THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S WORDS OF PRAISE ABOUT THE POSITIVE RESULTS ACHIEVED AT COLOMBO ARE "DE RIGUEUR" FOLLOWING ANY CONFERENCE IN WHICH TUNISIA PARTICIPATES, AND MUST BE TAKEN WITH A GRAIN OF SALT. OF GREATER SIGNIFICANCE, CHATTY'S STATEMENT REGARDING ATTEMPTS TO TRANSFORM THE NAM INTO A FIEFDOM OF A "SPECIFIC CAMP" REFLECT GOT DISCHANTMENT WITH AGGRESSIVE BEHAVIOR OF RADICAL STATES AND THEIR EFFORTS TO LINE MOVEMENT BEHIND SVIET, CUABAN, AND NORTH KOREAN FOREIGN POICY GOALS. IN BRIEF COMMENT AT DINNER AUGUST 24 TO AMBASSADOR AND TWO OTHER CHIEFS OF MISSION, CHATTY SAID, IT IS STUPID TO KEEP TALKING OF NONALIGNMENT. THERE IS NO MORE NONALIGNMENT." IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT ON AUGUST 25 THE IMPORTANT TUNIS MORNING NEWSPAPER LA PRESSE, WHICH IS GOVERNMENTO-CONTROLLED, PRESENTED A THREE-QUATER PAGE INTERVIEW WITH THE SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR WHANG, WHO FORCEFULLY RXPRESSED ROK VIEWS ON COLOMBO AND OTHER ISSUES.

7. CHATTY'S CLEAR REPUDIATION OF OIL EMBARGO AGAINST FRENCH ALSO REFLECTS GOT DISPLEASURE WITH HEAVY-HANDED TACTICS OF RADICALS AND THEIR ATTEMPTS TO PACKAGE EXTREME POSITIONS IN NAM WRAPPINGS. THIS REJECTION ALSO REFLECTS GOT DESIRE TO DISASSOCIATE ITSELF PUBLICLY FROM ATTACK ON FRANCE, WITH WHOM CONTINUED CLOSE BILATERAL RELATIONS ARE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE. MULCAHY

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